

Comment on RM-10785

I support the petition of Eric Ward, N0HHS in asking that the Commission eliminate immediately the Element I proficiency test for all amateur radio licenses. The only legitimate reason for maintaining the requirement, the ITU world treaty, has been eliminated with the unanimous vote at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). If the United States does not eliminate the requirement, there will be unfair discrimination against licensed U.S. amateurs without code proficiency. By reciprocal licensing agreements already in existence, foreign amateurs without code proficiency may come to the U.S. and operate with the HF privileges afforded them by their own country while amateurs of the same class in the U.S. will not have those privileges. Six Countries have already eliminated the code proficiency requirement with more indicating their intentions. America stands for freedom for its citizens and the FCC should not withhold access to HF bands from no-code technicians when some many other countries have given their nocode class operators that access.

Morse code proficiency is an antiquated and very slow method of communication. It should remain a valid communication mode for those that wish to participate in it. But there is no reasonable basis in law or common sense to continue to block access to the H.F. bands just because an amateur licensee does not have proficiency in Morse Code. U.S. amateurs should be given the same H.F. privileges awarded to Non-US amateurs without code proficiency. I support the continued allocation of CW bands but no proficiency test should be required for any amateur to participate on the CW bands. Those that enjoy the mode can obtain proficiency on their own so they can operate efficiently in that mode.

Please remove the block to HF bands to the many Technicians that do not have the time to invest 3 months learning Morse code when most have no plans to ever use the mode once Element I is passed. Furthermore, there are a large number of general, advanced, and extra class amateur licensees that have not maintained any level of proficiency they once had and should not be awarded preferential treatment in the use of phone band allocations just because they learned morse code years ago.

It is in the best interest of the amateur community to eliminate class distinction of no-code amateurs versus amateurs that once knew morse code or may still know it. This divisive classification has resulted in a large attrition rate of Technicians that never upgrade and leave the hobby. I received my no code license in 1992 and now 11 years later am still barred from using HF amateur bands. Less than one million active amateur operators in the United States is not enough to support the Homeland Security Plan of using amateur service during emergencies. This must be remedied immediately. By allowing immediate access to HF bands with Technician level license without code proficiency will go a long way to add to the rank of operators needed to support the emergency services of our government to protect our Homeland.

I fully support the permanent elimination of all testing for Element I proficiency for all classes of licenses immediately and ask that the Commission expedite their rule making to make American amateurs equal to our foreign counterparts. Why should America, the land of the free, have the most restrictive amateur license requirements in light of recent developments worldwide in this matter?

Respectfully,

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